Sl. No.	Name of the State	Central Share released
11.	Madhya Pradesh	31.98
12.	Manipur	1.56
13.	Meghalaya	1.76
14.	Mizoram	0.80
15.	Nagaland	0.53
16.	Orissa	30.70
17.	Punjab	16.95
18.	Rajasthan	168.18
19.	Sikkim	2.95
20.	Tamil Nadu	18.59
21.	Tripura	1.41
22.	Uttar Pradesh	39.18
23.	West Bengal	32.13
	TOTAL:	636.79

Precautionary Steps to Avert Natural Calamity

†1257. SHRI BACHANI LEKHRAJ:
PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) Whether Government have formulated any guideline to tackle an eventuality as we have faced the wrath of nature in the form of worst cyclone in Orissa and other States last year;

(b) if so, the details the thereof;

(c) whether Government have taken up with the States the importance of keeping vigil and taking precautionary steps to avert destructions in advance;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) whether Government have taken any step to reach the victims fast to save life and problems as Government could not reach the remote corners of cyclone affected Orissa last year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO): (a) and (b) There is an integrated administrative machinery both at the Central and State levels to

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

manage the natural calamities. Detailed guidelines are provided in the Contingency Action Plans and Relief Manuals.

(c) and (d) The State Government are required to undertake necessary preparatory measures and update their plans/manuals keeping in view various factors including experiences gained. The Central Government, on its part, renders assistance whenever necessary.

(e) All necessary measures to provide relief to the affected people *in* the ground level are teken by the State Governments concerned and their efforts are supplemented by the Government of India as and when required.

Prices of Agricultural Crops

1258. SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN:
SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the prices of agricultural crops have gone down for the last two years;

(b) if so, the prices of the main agricultural crops during the year 1998, 1999 and 2000; and

(c) what steps are being taken to ensure that the agriculturists get remunerative prices for their produce?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO): (a) and (b) It may be observed from the enclosed statement showing Wholesale Price Index (WPI) numbers of major agricultural crops during 1998, 1999 and 2000 that the WPI numbers of various agricultural crops have fluctuated over the period (*See* below).

(c) In order to protect the interests of the farmers, the Government fixes Minimum Support Prices (MSP) for major agricultural commodities, such as rice, wheat, coarse cereals, oilseeds, pulses, cotton, jute, copra, etc., and organises purchases operations through public and cooperative agencies like, Food Corporation of India (rice, wheat and coarse cereals), NAFED (oilseeds and pulses), Cotton Corporation of India (cotton), Jute Corporation of India (jute) and Tobacco Board (Tobacco). Those commodities which are perishable in nature and locally grown or where the cost differential varies substantially from State to State are covered under the Market Intervention Scheme (MIS). The Government has also been using import tariff as an instrument for discouraging imports wherever necessary for protecting the farmers.